

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5235

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO GW CZ

SUBJ: VISIT TO PRAGUE BY FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER

1. AT DECEMBER 16 NATO POLADS MEETING, FRG REP (CITRON) REPORTED ON CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH AND CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER STROUGAL DURING FORMER'S DECEMBER 1 VISIT TO PRAGUE. STROUGAL REPORTEDLY PORTRAYED DETENTE AS A CONTINUOUS AND LONG-TERM PROCESS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE IMPEDED BY TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES. IT WAS THUS WRONG, STROUGAL ADDED, TO HOLD EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS OF THE IMMEDIATE BENEFITS FROM DETENTE. STROUGAL AFFIRMED THAT THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE NO INTEREST IN MAINTAINING CENTERS OF TENSION AND STRESSED THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT BE TOO PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR DETENTE.

2. RE SALT, STROUGAL SAID THAT HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT, DESPITE DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATIONS, THE SOVIETS WERE STILL INTERESTED IN AN AGREEMENT. WHILE IT WAS UNLIKELY THIS COULD BE REACHED IN 1976, HE EXPECTED A SUCCESSFUL CONSLUSION WOULD BE POSSIBLE NEXT YEAR. BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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